

# Social Questions Bulletin

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Number 1

*The Methodist Federation for Social Action, an unofficial membership organization, seeks to deepen within the Church the sense of social obligation and opportunity to study, from the Christian point of view, social problems and their solutions; and to promote social action in the spirit of Jesus. The Federation rejects the method of the struggle for profit as the economic base for society and seeks to replace it with social-economic planning to develop a society without special class or group discriminations and privileges.*

## U. S. Economy at Mid-Century

### PRICES AT ALL-TIME HIGH:

Consumer Prices in November up 31.7% since price controls, June, 1946. 75.6% above pre-war 1935-39 average. Up 3.2% since last June.

Wholesale Prices in December up 10.2% since June. Retail food prices up since June—5.7% higher in December, more than double 1935-39 average. In pre-war 40 odd cents would buy as much food as \$1 today. From pre-June level eggs up 66%, coffee up 15%. Clothing, dept. store, etc., prices also up and rising. Rents also. Housing Expediter approved 973,542 rent hikes in first 11 months of 1950—about \$100 million extra for landlords, in addition to removal from controls of 4 million rental units in same period. (And what if *all* federal rent controls go soon, as scheduled?) Future prospect, says Wall Street Journal (Dec. 14), is that even with proposed price controls: “inflation to grow worse, purchasing power of dollar (already 45% below pre-World War II) will shrink.” Moody’s Stock Survey: “Inflation pattern depends on war developments . . . pointed toward considerable additional rise in commodity prices before important restraint.”

### PROFITS ALSO AT PEAK

As of 3rd quarter, 1950—\$42 billion and \$24.4 billion—annual rates before and after taxes. Compared with pre-war (1936-39) average (in billions) of 5.4 and 4.1; wartime average (1942-45) of 22.5 and 9.8; and post-war, post-controls (1946-49) average of 28.8 and 17.5. The unprecedented post-June profits reflected the price rises and drop in purchasing power for the average man’s dollar. 2nd quarter 1950 profits after taxes were 59% above same quarter 1949. 3rd quarter 1950 profits after all taxes was 16% higher still. And the *largest* corporations, reported the Journal of Commerce, “continued to earn the highest rate, 17.2% for 2nd quarter 1950.” Corporation profit rate also rose from 6.8% in 1939 to 15.6% in 2nd quarter 1950.

### HAVE WORKERS RECEIVED THEIR SHARE?

Answers Chairman Emil Rieve of CIO Committee on Economic Policy: “Wage and salary earners failed to receive an equitable share of postwar increases in man-hour productivity. Between 1944 and just before Korea, productivity increased  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3% each year. Buying power of weekly earnings declined 7%—because of higher prices and reduced work week. Corporate profits, after taxes, rose 82%. Buying power of corporate profits rose 37%. Rising prices and soaring profits since June 25 have widened the disparity. Wholesale prices went up less than 8/10 of 1% a month during the first half of the year—but jumped over 7% (now more) since Korea, result of speculation in commodity markets. Working people are paying for these business practices. There can be no justification for business to use mobilization for reducing living standards of workers.” Last fiscal year industry’s wage bill rose  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ ; its profits 10%. Inflation and profiteering have hit hardest unorganized and fixed income workers—many preachers.

### WHY HAS LABOR CRITICIZED THE DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT?

As put by Emil Rieve: “The Act fails as weapon against inflation. The wage price tie-in provision . . . is inequitable and unworkable. It would freeze wages in industries whose prices were controlled. But neither this Act nor other federal legislation provides effective controls of prices or rents.”

Requirement freezing wages in industries where prices are controlled, has been opposed by labor because: Wage rise has

not kept pace with price-profit rise, so freezing present wage-price relationship unfair. Such a wage-price tie-in takes no account of an industry’s profits and ability to raise wages *without* prices. It ignores rise in labor productivity, and labor’s moral claim to share benefits. Above all, it neglects the human factor—worker’s cost of living and family needs. High steel prices and profits enable higher wages, lower prices, or both. Consider effect on steel worker and family of freezing wages while rent, food, clothing, etc., are *not* frozen. Workers cannot eat or wear steel. The same for rubber, oil workers, etc.

### WHAT SHARE TO LABOR IN ECONOMIC AND MOBILIZATION POLICY MAKING?

Answers AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany for AFL: “UP TO THE PRESENT TIME (DEC. 23 ABC BROADCAST) GOVERNMENT HAS DENIED LABOR A VOICE IN MAKING POLICY AND IN MAKING DECISIONS IN THE DEFENSE PROGRAM.”

Men appointed to policy-making power in Washington are from other ranks. The entire list would be instructive. Examples are: (1) Charles E. Wilson, President of General Electric, new head of Office of Defense Mobilization, economic czar in the “national emergency,” second in economic authority to the President. (In 1949 Mr. Wilson received from General Electric \$201,000—the average G. E. worker’s 1949 wage being \$2,962. Morgan interests predominate in General Electric, which plays major role in atomic bomb development.)—(2) William Henry Harrison, Pres. of International Telephone & Telegraph Co. (another Morgan-related interest with special ties with recently boosted Franco Spain), Administrator of National Production Authority.—(3) W. Stuart Symington, another Morgan man, former head of Emerson Electric Co.—coordinator of Economic Mobilization and chairman, National Security Resources Board.

### WHAT ABOUT FARMERS?

Their receipts and net income were both somewhat less in 1950 than 1949, which represented a drop from 1948. As for 1951 the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports: “Strong demand for most farm products is in prospect. But higher costs of production and of living, higher taxes, and increasing difficulties in obtaining supplies and farm labor are also in prospect. Farm income may rise but is not likely to regain levels of 1947 or 1948. Nonagricultural income, however, is expected to rise above record high established this year.”

Programs for farmer welfare have suffered from Budget Bureau cuts in non-military spending: rural telephone lines \$19,073,000; rural electrification \$66,427,000; conservation and use program \$26,000,000; farm tenancy and housing program \$24,500,000; hospital construction program (for which greatest need is in rural areas) \$75,000,000 (50% cut in appropriation already authorized); reclamation and power projects through Interior Dept. \$66,427,000. With other Fair Deal proposals Brannan Plan (to aid farmers and consumers) seems to have gone. Writes North Dakota Union Farmer: “Unfortunately, one of the first casualties of the war seems to be the Brannan Plan.”

Hit also were constructive programs of the U. N. Food and Agricultural Organization, Presidents of C.I.O., A.F.L., National Farmers Union, Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, and National Farm Labor Union, united in protesting “position United States delegation is taking under direction of economic advisors of State Dept.” to reduce F.A.O. to “little more than research.” “Peace and human welfare require our nation to help F.A.O. encompass whole field of food production and consumption, protect income



of farm people, raise living levels everywhere through channeling to distressed areas 'surpluses' and encouraging agricultural production in underdeveloped areas."

AS FOR FARMERS' COOPERATIVES, their business volume reached \$9.3 billion in 1948-49—and their total number 10,075. The lavish, business backed National Tax Equality Association efforts against co-ops, continue,—as in the work to get newspapers to run anti-co-op ads with names of local advertisers, not NTEA, their real source.

On old effort to split farmers and workers, C.I.O.'s Carey told Farm Bureau's recent convention: "End result is to force down agricultural prices, use that as lever to keep down wages, have both farmers and workers in poverty while big business reaps the profits and keeps the political power." He pointed out that since 1939 share of national income going to corporate profits had nearly doubled, while shares for farmers and workers had both gone down.

#### AND WHAT OF THE GOSPEL'S "LEAST OF THESE", FORTOTTEN MEN, THE POOR, WHETHER IN FACTORY OR FIELD?

Testified Leon Keyserling, Chairman, President's Council of Economic Advisers: "50% of families had incomes below \$3200 a year estimated by Bureau of Labor Statistics necessary to maintain an urban family of four at a reasonably satisfactory standard of living. Between a quarter and a third of all families had less than \$2,000 a year, and more than 10% had incomes of less than \$1,000." But the highest 10% had nearly 1/3 of all the national income in 1948; and the Federal Reserve Board reported they saved more money than the other 90% together. Over one third of the nation's families lacked income to meet expenses—and went into debt.

Recent testimony has accented the misery suffered still by migrant workers, native and foreign.

Negro and other minority group workers suffer special disability and discrimination; and federal legislation to remedy this is sabotaged.

As to educational opportunity for the poor, a United Press dispatch from Chicago reported: "Earl J. McGrath, U. S. Commissioner of Education, said most boys and girls who enter high school fail to graduate, chiefly because parents cannot afford to keep them in school. McGrath said of every 1,000 pupils who enroll in high school, only 481 graduate, and statistics challenge the nation to do something about effect of low-family income on education."

As to better housing for the poor, C.I.O. News (Dec. 18) reports: "Budget Bureau determined to cut to bone all government expenditures under low-cost housing act. The cut-back in low-income housing is definite and has been announced."

Regarding the growing monopoly and economic power concentration which has continued, Temporary National Economic Committee of the U. S. Congress reported: "A more nearly perfect mechanism for making the poor poorer and the rich richer could scarcely be devised."

#### WAR STILL PROFITABLE FOR SOME

1950 profit news was especially good for war-related industries. E. G., Du Pont (selected by Atomic Energy Commission for hydrogen bomb building) paid in dividends \$240 million, 58% more than 1949. Standard and Poor's Outlook says: "stocks with a war flavor are still among leaders in the market." And for investors who have fears of peace breaking out, Moody's Stock Survey is reassuring: "We don't think investors need worry. There isn't any chance of returning to where we were before Korea. If actual fighting should stop the essentially semi-war and inflationary character of the outlook wouldn't soon change." Wall St. Journal also has good news: "War spells activity in industry. A full flood of business spells a full flood of earnings (profits) and dividends." There is reason to be "optimistic as to the 1951 outlook on the assumption that the armament program will continue." It is this military spending, reports Standard and Poor's Outlook, which "ends the fear, recurrent in recent years, of a business recession or depression." And this, no doubt, has helped bring the present high levels of employment and production. But, as the President warned in his State of the Union message, rearmament "means shortages in various consumer goods," and "a major increase in taxes to meet the cost." Prices, already at an all-time high, will be pushed higher by shortages. Taxes, already lifted, are slated for further "major increase." The total public faces even higher national debt, already stupendous.

#### WHAT OF OUR NATIONAL BUDGET—THAT OF A WELFARE STATE?

CIO analysis of the budget year *preceding* Korea (July 1,

1949-June 30, 1950) shows that total Federal expenditures for that period were \$40.2 billion of which 75% were war-related (in payment for past wars or preparation for possible future wars); and that only 25% were for all other Federal expenditures and services.

In contrast "back in pre-war 1939, costs of national defense, international affairs, Veterans' services, and interest on the debt took only 29% of the Federal budget compared to 75% in 1950. Eleven years ago the 'all other' costs of running the Government—the part spent for normal civilian services—got not only the lion's share of the Budget; it took 9% of the National Income. In 1950 these same non-war-related services had dropped to only 4% of the National Income. If we really have a Welfare State, it is fast shrinking in its proportions!" In breakdown of the non-war-related expenditures CIO discovered substantial shares had gone for: aids to agriculture; developing natural resources and general government administration (FBI, flood control, Treasury Department, etc.); and business aids (RFC loans to industry, ship-building subsidies, aids to aviation industry, aids to trucking, rivers and harbors "pork", Commerce Department, etc.). The *smallest* share of the Budget's non-war-related 25% went for "the Welfare State." This was only \$1.8 billion of the \$40.2 billion Budget.

To quote the CIO: "In 1950 the richest nation of the world spent less than five cents of each Federal tax dollar for public assistance for widows, orphans, the aged and the blind, help educate the nation's youth, rehabilitate the handicapped, eradicate slums, erect low-rent public housing, improve the peoples' health, meet the cost of all-national parks, museums and libraries, and support the national school lunch program. These (plus Labor Department costs) are all of the much derided 'Welfare' and 'social' services. To pay for them Uncle Sam collected less than 1% of the National Income in fiscal 1950. For the nation as a whole, our use of public funds—local, state *and* federal—for health, education, and assistance to the needy, amounts to two-thirds of our spending on liquor and tobacco."

Remember, this was *before* June. If the emphasis was so greatly on war-related expenditures *then*, how much more true *today and tomorrow*. The most vigorously applauded statement by the President in his State of the Union message to Congress was: "In the months ahead the Government must give priority to activities that are urgent—like military procurement and atomic development. It must practise rigid economy in non-defense activities." This is in line with the recent plea by the business leader, Lewis H. Brown, before the National Association of Manufacturers: "Defense needs must come first. Less important things must be tossed overboard." It is like the plea of the *Magazine of Wall Street* (Dec. 16) "to cut back drastically budgetary items which constitute strictly unnecessary peacetime luxuries." It also follows the similar plea of Governor Dewey. Journal of Commerce (Dec. 18) said the emergency "cannot be met without a temporary decline in our standard of living." Wall Street Journal (Dec. 15) makes similar emphasis and points out that war "is the enemy of social progress, we must consent to subordinate social gains for the duration."

In the present fiscal year (ending next June) directly military expenditures (for the armed services) are already more than thrice the original \$13.3 billions budgeted. And these 42 billions do not include additional billions appropriated for military aid to Atlantic allies (now including Franco Spain), strategic military stock-piling, atomic bomb development, and "civilian defense." Nor the billions more still likely.

The Friends' Committee on National Legislation states: "Already this fiscal year Congress has appropriated over \$53 billion for the armed services, atomic weapons, and civil defense . . . a million dollars every ten minutes, day and night . . . every hour more than the entire world spends in a year for meeting hunger through the Food and Agricultural Organization or disease through the World Health Organization. Every seven hours . . . more than the entire world plans to spend on the United Nations itself in 1951. Do you remember some Congressmen said we could not afford \$300 million helping equalize educational opportunities for 27 million elementary and high school students? . . . It (military spending) threatens our economy with bankruptcy."

Does our mid-century economy have its greatest stake in human welfare, or in warfare?

As put by The Methodist Church in its last General Conference: "The true end of economic activity is the satisfaction of human needs. Material necessities are a prerequisite of a good life for all men and are important in winning and maintaining peace."

J. R. M.



## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

A year ago there were near 5,000,000 unemployed. Stock market was having periodic breaks. Total spending was dropping. Financial journals, were warning subscribers the post-war boomlet was over and advising retrenchment. Economists were forecasting a minor depression. Today only unemployment is minimum capitalist economists call "normal." Stock market is booming beyond all records. Total spending is up. Production and profits are reaching an all time high. What made the change?

Early in the year came realization that Marshall Plan aid was not restoring production to levels of social health. Followed the logical next move in the cold war—re-armament and re-mobilization. Business turned upward. Financial journals proclaimed the government had found the way to prevent the cyclical depression that is the organic disease of capitalist economy. Then, as Business Week recently said, "... came Korea. That took the lid off."

The meaning is clear. Our profit seeking economy, only strong section left, can no longer keep going by production for maintenance and advance of society. It has to invoke aid of production for destruction and death.

To what extent? Familiar contrasts of budget figures for war with those for social well being give only a part of the answer. The military column does not include atomic weapon production, nor arms sent abroad. Moreover, to get the whole story, total national spending and production must be covered. U. S. News figures (Dec. 22) that before the Korean war out of all dollars spent on goods and services 1 out of 23 went to the armed services; now 1 out of 16 goes there; under present plans, early in '52 it will be 1 out of 7.

An outstanding authority, known to our readers by his article last year, Prof. Walter Rautenstrauch,\* says present data does not permit exact computing. The government anticipated war production orders of 35 billions by July 1 does permit a rough estimate. In terms of workers required, their earnings, and the value of the product, this means between 40 and 50% of production into war effort. Thus, we approach points where our economy becomes more destructive than constructive, socially injurious instead of beneficial.

Add the cuts in expenditures for health and education, public and private, required by the war effort and its taxation; and it may be that the social results of our economic behaviour already incline toward destruction. They certainly will if the trend in our foreign policy toward war continues. One glance at the scorched earth of Korea indicates the mortgage a large scale war would place on the well-being of any children of tomorrow who had to replace its destruction under the profit and interest system.

Add again that armanent production increases economic self interest in war, always one of its strongest causes. To incitement of raw materials and foreign investments, war industries add need of capitalists and wage earners, professional men, tradesmen and farmers, to keep the plants going. I can never forget the wholesome aging couple in front of me in a train in New England in 1917. "You know mother," the man said quietly, "if the war had lasted six months longer we would have been on Easy Street." War jobs mean food and clothes for children. Thus we face a chain of causation. The functional deficiency of the economy welcomes war production, and so invites war. Then the deficiency becomes a fatal sickness.

For organized religion this means that its official findings concerning our economy are out of date. They need to be re-examined in light of present facts. For us these facts mean the obligation to carry in the same light to General Conference the judgments of our masthead; and to point out that the only immediate alternative to war production is the expenditures of the welfare state, honestly conducted. This, rejected by one side of our foreign policy coalition, and scrapped by the other, in their pursuit of the cold war, is the only economic course that can give us time to gather the forces to avert World War III.

H. F. W.

\* ED. NOTE: The creative, useful life of Prof. Rautenstrauch came to an end after this column was written. We will miss this friend. The world needs more like him: great educator and scientist, ever loyal to people and to a world in which industry and science would be for them.

## A FINANCIER\* APPROVES THE MASTHEAD

As in your masthead, you reject the method of the struggle for profit, as the economic base for society.

May I as a business man state why you are right. The struggle for profit brings out some of the worst qualities. It makes men ruthless and selfish and brings such to top positions. It is the economic basis of racial discrimination. The planned economy does not depend on periodic shot-in-the-arm from military orders, to ward off unemployment and politely-called "overproduction." It absorbs expanding production by periodic price reductions (raising real wages) making products available to ever-greater numbers. Planned economy, without private enterprise, so needs no share holders or stock exchange. Stock Exchanges from a National Point of View are wholly unproductive. How much (well-educated) human effort is expended unproductively by the countless stock exchange firms with their secretaries, typists, statistical departments! In planned economy, the government does its own importing, charges itself no duty. Countless customs officials, custom house brokers with their staffs become unnecessary and available for productive work. The same for competitive advertising in all its branches.

In planned economy, there is direct relation between a man's income and his service to society. The highest income goes to scientific research men, to writers of music and plays, to teachers, etc. not to people who gamble in stocks and commodities, rendering no concrete service.

\* A successful business man who wants new standards for success.

## FOOD—FAMINE—FAMILY

CHARLES EDWIN LORD\*

My country is the possessor of vast stores of surplus foods, many of which will soon spoil if not used. My world is full of hungry people, many of whom will soon starve if not fed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Drew Pearson's column said: "While the government has been cracking down on war hoarders, the agriculture department has been breaking all records for hoarding. Since the Korean war, the agriculture department has hidden away in caves another 47,200,000 pounds of cheese, 30,200,000 pounds of butter, and 16,700,000 pounds of dried eggs. Much of this stored food is likely to become moldy and rancid, yet people are hungry in many lands. Note—The agriculture department also has 7,500,000 pounds of rice in storage. This could go much further than bullets to win the peace in Korea."

\* \* \* \* \*

When our government believed there was need for our boys in Korea (and they are boys, read the casualty lists, all 17, 18, 19 years of age) they got there, and fast. *We must bring our government to the belief there is need for food in India, China, Korea, many other places. Then they will get it there, and fast.*

Yes food WILL save lives, not only in other lands, but of our boys, who will be fighting and killed in how many places in the world, if the hungry are not fed. For me, food is more expendable than family. If you share that belief you'll not be complacent, you'll talk to everyone you meet, you'll write letters to the "Reader's Viewpoint," to President Truman, the Secretary of State, Congressman, Senators.

\* Minister, Trinity Methodist Church, Bakersfield, Calif.

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## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### NORTH CAROLINA PREPARES TO BECOME A "STANDARD"

"Dr. Edgar Love made grand appeal for support of Federation at Annual Conference. Our membership meeting was the best in history. We made plans to become a Standard Chapter. \$500.00 per year for MFSA. We are going to do it. We raised \$78.00 at the Annual Conference Meeting and want to have you come to our Conference around the first of the year. Our Chapter is not going to let you down. We are going to stick with you."

### CHICAGO STRENGTHENS PEACE & ACTION GROUPS IN LOCAL CHURCHES

"We took action to organize, strengthen and activate Action groups in local churches. Conducted a November Supper meeting on Peace Action in the Local Church. The Kefauver Committee revelations on the connection between crime and politics brought a strong letter to Mayor Kennelly suggesting shake-up in police department. We commended Sheriff-Elect Bobb who, in an address to the Union of Ministers of Greater Chicago, condemned the attempt to burn the home of a distinguished Negro scientist, and declared, "There will be no witch-hunting in Cook county, that I as sheriff can avert."

### DETROIT CHAPTER OUT IN THE LEAD ON A CREATIVE CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO THE FAR EAST

Dr. Frank T. Cartwright of the Board of Foreign Missions at MFSA CHAPTER MEETING IN NOVEMBER discussed the Far Eastern situation, stating that "the revolution in China was a revolt against low-standards of living, over population, usury and money lenders, western colonialism and a part of the slow growing yeasty revolt seen in the Philippines, Malaya, Indonesia and Burma." He concluded by saying that "We have over one hundred missionaries in China. None of them have been misused. If the war in Korea flames into war with China, missionaries probably will be interned. We have great leadership in China. We will stand by the Chinese church as long as they want our support and aid. We will support those who elect to go and those who remain."

### AT THIS NOVEMBER 30 MEETING, THE DETROIT CHAPTER VOTED TO SEND THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN AND THE REPRESENTATIVE IN THE U. N.

"We urge the U.S. through the United Nations to open every possible avenue of negotiation and discussion between the Chinese government and the U. N. to use to the full the peaceful techniques of getting at fundamental problems raised by the Chinese in the U. N. and by the Korean War and to do all to settle our difficulties without recourse either to atom bomb or to World War III which would be the greatest calamity ever to befall the human race."

"The conference was almost unanimous in opposition to the atom bomb." Dan Jorgensen reports there was splendid brotherhood and understanding among those present. "Detroit Conference Chapter is underway for one of the best years in our history. Gordon Phillips is giving untiring leadership."

They are following up this fine Rally with work in district peace workshops and United Nations Seminars.

### "EUROPEAN SCENE"—THEME OF OREGON CHAPTER

Their secretary writes, "Over 800 present. Excellent educational work done by Bishop Kennedy and Dr. Paul J. Raver. Offers of \$104.00 for local Federation Chapter and a number of new members for the National Federation."

### CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE IS ON THE JOB. Probably you have already received your appeal from him. He enclosed a suggestion from the OREGON CHAPTER PROMOTION CAMPAIGN as follows:

"We want to challenge you to the greatest effort in behalf of Christian Social Action that you have ever given. Mail the enclosed membership application immediately. Get a friend to do the same. Write plainly on the edge of the blank the amount you will pay each week, 25 cents or more for Christian Social Action. We will send you a coin card the first of each month to fill and return. 200 Methodists of Oregon pledging one gallon of gas a week for Christian Social Action would mean \$1600 to use in our own Conference for educational purposes and \$800 to carry on the great work of the National Fellowship. So step up and put your money on a "hoss" that is really moving."

Note: Let us know how you are meeting your "Ways and

Means" problems. MFSA will assist and cooperate in any financial or membership campaigns of member chapters. Your successes will encourage and strengthen us all.

### ENCOURAGEMENT FROM IDAHO

"Bishop Kennedy spoke very movingly of the work of the Federation last week at a meeting of the Idaho Conference Members. I believe interest here is as high as ever, or I hope higher. We hope to lay plans soon for some action."

### AND IOWA-DES MOINES CONFERENCE

"Judging from the gist of the returns from a widely broadcast questionnaire the MFSA chapter will continue. Quite a few members of the MFSA are ready to stay right in there. Some new ministers indicated that they are interested in becoming members. The polls revealed that our local conference chapter has failed to do a good job of education about purposes and program of the Federation. Good educational procedures can disabuse some of these people of their false ideas. We will follow up by sending information to the 20 who requested it."

### "RESPONSE TO THE BULLETIN"

(The Bulletin attempts to present facts not available from other sources on social issues of concern to a Prophetic church. By virtue of its size, the Bulletin is limited in presenting a comprehensive all-sided picture. You can remedy this by sending in additional material on questions discussed, original articles and comments. Also additional funds would restore the Bulletin to its former 8-page size. These will help our membership to be a creative fighting fellowship in days of great testing and "neo-paganism"—Suggested material for the Feb. Brotherhood number and a coming civil liberties number is solicited now from all readers.)

"The article in November issue of "Social Questions" by Sir Benegal Rau is excellent. Enclosed find \$1.00. Please rush me 10 copies. Rau's article will be reprinted in Iowa Farmers Union paper." M. E. Dorr, Osage, Iowa.

"Keep up the good work. Our church needs the influence of the Federation especially in these crucial times. Many times I reflect the current of our day in confusion over critical issues. The Bulletin frequently helps me see a pattern of mercy tempered with justice applied to our confused social patterns."

Carl Strange, Grand Haven, Michigan.

"I'm very glad to receive the SQB monthly. Such brave publications help to keep up a little hope that the world has not gone completely mad. I am anxious for a little more definite information on certain phases of the report of Sir Benegal Rau as I should like to use it in a group discussion meeting."

Edith M. Hodgkins, Los Angeles, Calif.

"Congratulations on the issue of the November Social Questions Bulletin. That was an excellent article by Rau. Seems to me we ought all to get our pens busy and uphold his hand. H. F. W.'s column cuts, as usual. I expect to use some of the material in the Christmas sermon on Sunday. Such factual material is what we desperately need." Lewis H. Davis, Bridgeport, Conn.

"I am a retired minister. Long ago I belonged to the Federation. Bishop McConnell's article in the Advocate aroused my desire to again belong in that honored circle of Christian men. This postal order was on my desk bound for another place. It shall go to your office." W. W. Switzer, Walla Walla, Wash.

### BENEDICTION OF THE 12th C.I.O. CONVENTION

(Eminent Charles C. Webber)

Father of all mankind, irrespective of race, creed, color, sex or national origin, we pray we will be doers of the Word, not speakers or hearers only.

Aid us to organize the unorganized, service our locals, and develop educational programs on the great domestic and foreign issues. Enable us to qualify every trade unionist as a first-class voter.

Inspire us and all organized labor to use our talents in service of Thy sons and daughters throughout the world.

Sustain us as we seek with Thee to build Thy commonwealth, and that of man upon earth, as in heaven. Amen.